ALUMNI EDITION

Columbia Seminary Vantage

J. DAVISON PHILIPS ELECTED PRESIDENT

At a special convocation of faculty and students at the Seminary on Thursday, November 20, J. Erskine Love, Jr., Chairman of the Board of Directors, announced the election of Dr. J. Davison Philips as President-elect of Columbia and presented Dr. Philips to the Seminary community. He will begin his presidency January 1, 1976.

During his remarks Mr. Love spoke of Dr. Philips as "a man of vision and proven leadership within the Presbyterian Church for more than twenty years."

Commenting from Charleston, S. C., Dr. J. Phillips Noble, Chairman of the Board's Search Committee which recommended Dr. Philips' election said, "We are extremely enthusiastic about Dr. Philips' unanimous election by the Board of Directors, and believe he will bring strong and effective leadership to Columbia Seminary."

Dr. Philips graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1940 and Columbia Seminary in 1943. Following two years as a Navy Chaplain he became the Assistant Pastor of First Church, Atlanta, and then became pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Thomasville, Ga. In 1954 he received his Ph.D from Edinburgh and moved to Decatur to serve the Decatur Presbyterian Church.

During his twenty-one years in Decatur he has been active in both community and church affairs and has been moderator of both Atlanta Presbytery and the old Synod of Georgia. He has also been chairman of the General Assembly's Operation Committee and served on the Board of Church Extension.

Dr. Philips

In Decatur he has been chairman of the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee and serves on the Board of Agnes Scott College and chaired that Executive Committee for 14 years.

He also serves on the Board of Presbyterian College in Clinton, S. C., and has been elected twice to the Board of Columbia, serving as Chairman of the Board for six years.

His special education includes participation in the Institute of Pastoral Care, the North American Summer Session, Mansfield College, Oxford, and he was a Tower Scholar of Union Seminary, Richmond.

In commenting upon his appointment Dr. Philips said, "I see four areas of concentrated effort which will focus my work at Columbia: to expand Continuing Education for pastors in the field who need to sharpen their tools for the tremendous demands placed upon them; to strengthen further Columbia's relationship with the Church which supports it in seven states through three Synods; ever to increase the financial resources of Columbia so we may continue to serve and train at the highest level; and to recruit the finest men and women so the Church can have the best leadership possible." Dr. Philips continued, "Both because of its tradition and location, Columbia has a magnificent opportunity for service during this latter part of the Twentieth Century . . . As I hold in the highest regard pastors who serve in the front line of the Church, so I covet for them the best possible training during their Seminary years and later through Continuing Education. This puts the responsibility upon Columbia to serve them and the Church. As we have met that responsibility over past years, I dedicate myself to help Columbia meet that responsibility in the days ahead."

Dr. Philips and his wife, Katherine, have three children: Jimmy, June and Graham, and two granddaughters: Jeanette and Anna.

Dr. Philips succeeds Dr. C. Benton Kline, Jr., who has served as President since 1971. Dr. Kline resigned that he might return to full-time teaching at Columbia in systematic theology. Chairman Love paid tribute to Dr. Kline's leadership over the years saying, "Ben Kline served Columbia faithfully and unceasingly. We are grateful he will still be a part of the Seminary community in the days ahead."

A WORD FROM YOUR ALUMNI PRESIDENT

Bill Schotanus

Greetings, fellow alums: Some of you have read Dr. Anderson's excellent article in current issue of OUTLOOK, "*A President Needs A Pastor.*" Every man does! And woman, and boy, and girl! Someone, in the name of God, who cares. And shows it! That is our primary ministry, whether we are on staff of GEB, college faculty, missionary, or in local church.

Let me urge you to strengthen your pastoral concern, for those with whom you work, for those to whom you are committed. Let me add also, for your fellow alumni, your partners in ministry, and for Columbia Seminary. These are days when God's Church needs strong-hearted pastors who actively demonstrate the love and hope we have in Jesus Christ. How many degrees you have behind your name means nothing to a dying cancer patient, or a lonely widow, or a teen-ager who needs someone to talk to.

Prayer ties us together, one to another, in our ministry, much better than this paper. Let us not give up on it, or get too busy! Our seminary needs our prayers, as well as our financial support. One thing I remember so well about Dr. Mac, and Ben Kline has it too, was his pastoral heart. The Search Committee for a new President needs our prayers as they look, not just for an administrative leader, but for a strong-hearted pastor of the seminary community.

W. M. (Bill) Schotanus

CLASS OF 71 PLANS REUNION

This coming June will mark our fifth anniversary since graduation from CTS. A lot has happened to us all in the years since then. A few of us have kept in touch with each other — but even that has been limited. This coming January will mark Alumni Week, 1976 (January 28-30). Some of us hope to be back — not for anything big or spectacular — but to share with one another some of our individual pilgrimages over these past five years. I personally hope each of you will be able to make it back — to share with your classmates. If you have special suggestions, drop me a line at Box 177, Commerce, Georgia 30529. See you in January.

Yours in Christ,
Ron Botsford

ALUMNI WEEK JANUARY 28-30

Dr. Wallace M. Alston, Jr., pastor of the Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, N. J., will be the Alumni Lecturer this January 28-30. Plan now to attend.

BEN KLINE PROGRESSES

Ben Kline is progressing satisfactorily in his recovery from his recent heart attack and now is out and about. It is anticipated he will return to Columbia January 1. Plans to honor him appropriately will be announced later.

Best wishes

for the

HOLIDAY

SEASON

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